

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2742

ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006

USE OF WATER

Pathak Shri Brajesh;Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of damage caused to agricultural production during the last three years due to shortage of water;
- (b) the percentage of total available water used for agricultural purposes;
- (c) whether there is constant decline in the availability of water for agriculture;
- (d) if so, whether there is any scheme to make farmers aware of the technique for getting maximum production with the use of minimum water; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): The agricultural production in the country is largely affected by timeliness distribution of rainfall. There has been a record production of 213.19 million tonnes of foodgrains during 2003-04 which declined to 198.36 million tonnes in 2004-05 due to drought in several States (Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Bihar). Estimated production for 2005-06 is 208.30 million tonnes of foodgrains (IV Advance Estimates).

(b): It has been estimated that the present utilization of water for various purposes is about 629 billion cubic meter (BCM) out of which about 524 BCM is for irrigation.

(c) to (e): No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has launched a new scheme on Micro-Irrigation in January, 2006 for the promotion of water saving techniques such as sprinkler and drip systems of irrigation for getting maximum production with the optimum use of water. Under the scheme, a provision has been made for subsidy of 50% of the cost of the Micro-Irrigation system to beneficiary farmers.